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**ORDINANCE NO.**

**AN ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY REDUCING SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL WATER RATES FOR TIERS 3, 4, AND 5; AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF AUSTIN WATER TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY BILLING ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM FOR ALL CLASSES OF RETAIL WATER UTILITY CUSTOMERS THAT EXPERIENCED WEATHER RELATED WATER PIPE BREAKS DURING FEBRUARY 2021; AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF AUSTIN WATER TO ESTIMATE BILLS FOR WATEWATER USING AVERAGING THAT EXCLUDES WATER CONSUMPTION CAUSED BY THE EFFECTS OF THE FEBRUARY 2021 WINTER STORMS; TEMPORARILY WAIVING EMERGENCY WATER SERVICE CUT-ON AND CUT-OFF CHARGES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

**PART 1.** After public hearing duly noticed, the Council finds that the rates and other terms set forth in this ordinance are fair, just, and reasonable, and sufficient to provide adequate and efficient services, and will provide revenues adequate to cover operations and debt obligations secured by water and wastewater rates.

**PART 2.** The Council waives assessment of fees for emergency water service cut-off or cut-on services for the period beginning February 14, 2021 through April 26, 2021.

**PART 3.** Austin Water retail water service bills generated between February 14, 2021 and March 18, 2021 will use consumption volumes established by estimates using historical averages.

**PART 4.** The Tier 3, 4, and 5 volume rates for both CAP and non-CAP Austin Water single family residential water service are temporarily reduced to 1 cent (\$0.01) per 1,000 gallons of consumption, such temporary reduced rate to be applicable to water bills generated between March 19, 2021 and April 26, 2021.

**PART 5.** The Tier 3, 4, and 5 fixed monthly charges for Austin Water single family residential water service are temporarily reduced to \$3.55, such temporary reduced rate to be applicable to water bills generated between March 19, 2021 and April 26, 2021.

**PART 6.** The director of Austin Water is authorized to administer a program applying credits, rebates, or other direct water utility bill adjustments for Austin Water retail customers that have experienced water pipe leaks caused by the extreme weather events occurring in the Austin area during the week of February 14, 2021. City Code Chapter 1-2 is waived with respect to such program. The director is further authorized to exclude any February weather-related billing adjustments from consideration when determining eligibility for customer billing adjustments under City Code Sections 15-9-141 (*Adjustment of Excess Water Bill if Leaks Are Repaired*) and 15-9-142 (*Adjustment of High Volume Water Bill*).

**PART 7.** The director of Austin Water is authorized to estimate wastewater bills for the current wastewater averaging period by using historical water use for the period commencing on February 14, 2021 instead of actual consumption volume metered or such other methodology as the director may determine to be reasonable and appropriate.

**PART 8.** This ordinance supersedes the water and wastewater rate schedules of Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 20200812-002 to the extent they conflict. Unless expressly modified by this ordinance, all other rates and fees set forth in Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 20200812-002 remain in effect.

**PART 9.** The Council finds that the extreme winter weather experienced in the Austin area during the week of February 14, 2021 constitutes an emergency. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect immediately upon its passage for the immediate preservation of the health and safety of the public.

**PASSED AND APPROVED**

\_\_\_\_\_, 2021      § \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Adler  
Mayor

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Anne L. Morgan      Jannette S. Goodall  
City Attorney      City Clerk